

Today, I am here to speak on behalf of my family and my beloved brother, Octavio. I stand before you with a heart overflowing with gratitude for the unwavering support you have shown us during this painful time, a time when both my family and the Chattanooga community have been deeply affected by this tragedy.

In moments of profound loss, the power of compassion and solidarity shines brightly. Each act of kindness, each comforting word, has been a balm to our broken hearts, giving us strength to endure the unimaginable. Your gestures have been rays of light piercing the darkness, helping us find hope where it once seemed lost.

Today, we stand here, full of deep gratitude and admiration for each of you. To Mr. Genno and the merchants of Chattanooga, thank you for your boundless generosity. To Mrs. Donna, your warmth and support have been an immense comfort to us, and I am truly sorry that this tragedy has touched your life so deeply.

To Pastor Kimberly, Pastor Malaver, and Pastor Colon, thank you for being with us every step of the way, bringing comfort through your presence and prayers. To my brother's lawyer, Mr. C. Mark, and his team, thank you for your steadfast dedication and guidance. To journalist Andrés, we are grateful for your companionship in helping our voices be heard. To Doctor Michael Yee and his team at Erlanger Hospital, along with all the doctors who worked tirelessly to save my brother's life, we thank you from the depths of our hearts. To Mrs. Jennifer and Mr. Francois Carstens, your kindness and hospitality have touched us beyond words.

We know my brother has a long road ahead to recover his health. This has been incredibly hard for him and our family. A father has lost his son, and he has lost his wife, all due to the negligence of others. This tragedy was preventable.

However, we take some comfort in knowing that, thanks to the NorthShore community and our shared loss, Frazier Avenue has been improved and renovated to better protect pedestrians and bikers, creating a safer space for everyone who passes daily toward Chattanooga's beautiful bridge.

Today, I raise my voice in the hope that no one else will have to endure such a tragedy, and that Chattanooga will become a safer city for everyone. May each person here continue working to make this city a better, safer place.

God bless you all. Chattanooga will forever be in our hearts.